

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-18

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SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /122 W

----- 107330

R 100900Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7040

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BLANTYRE 618

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, MI

SUBJ: MEETING OF PRESIDENTS OF ZAMBIA AND MALAWI

REF: LUSAKA 0863

1. PRESIDENT BANDA IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE SAID KAUNDA HAD NOT COME TO DISCUSS PORTUGAL/MOZAMBIQUE BUT STOPPED SHORT OF SAYING SUBJECT WAS NOT DISCUSSED. HE WENT ON IMMEDIATELY TO REITERATE HIS VIEWS ON CHANGES IN PORTUGAL, LEAVING IT TO LISTENER TO INFER TOPIC COVERED. PORTUGUESE CHARGE IS WELL AWARE THAT CHANGES IN PORTUGAL AND EFFECTS ON MOZAMBIQUE WERE DISCUSSED AND HAS INDICATED TO US HIS SATISFACTION THAT THIS IS SO.

2. IN CHOOSING ELIPTICAL LANGUAGE, PRESIDENT BANDA WAS FOLLOWING HIS PROPENSITY TO KEEP HIS INVOLVEMENT HIDDEN UNTIL THERE IS SOMETHING DRAMATIC TO ANNOUNCE. TO DEMONSTRATE HIS OWN STATURE HE HAS ALSO CONTINUOUSLY SOUGHT TO SHOW MALAWI PUBLIC THAT INITIATIVE FOR IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAWI AND ZAMBIA (AND TANZANIA) IS AT INITIATIVE OF LATTER.

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THUS HIS STATEMENTS INTENDED INDICATE KAUNDA OVER CONSIDERABLE

PERIOD OF TIME PREDATING EVENTS IN PORTUGAL SOUGHT MEETING
TO DISCUSS GENERAL MATTERS IN FIELD MALAWI-ZAMBIA RELATIONS.
WE DO NOT BELIEVE BANDA WAS MOTIVATED BY DESIRE TO PROTECT
HIS RELATIONS WITH GOP.
BURDETT

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NNN

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